other taxes as a result of the spurious activity is estimated at Rs.1185.00 crores. The production and sale of spurious auto parts not only tarnishes the image of the manufacturers but also results in loss of their market share.

(e) According to the above study, on an average 18% of the accidents which occured in the areas covered by the study could be attributed to the use of spurious components.

(f) The Trades and Merchandise Act is proposed to be amended to make manufacture, storage and sale of spurious goods a cognizable offence. The Motor Vehicle Act has also been recently amended to provide for penalities for manufacture of sub-standard auto-parts. Excise duty on auto parts has also been reduced to bring down their prices.

Increase in prices of polymers

2747. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of polymers have risen steeply during the last few months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The prices of Polymers viz. LDPE, LLDPE, PP, PVC and PS have risen in the domestic market in the last few months. The prices are changed upward or downward by the domestic manufacturers depending on a large number of factors like the cost of their inputs, international market prices of the same products and the tariffs etc.

Revival of BPMEL

2748. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Questions 392 and 1428 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th December, 1994 and 15th December, 1994 respectively and state:

(a) the proposal of assigning the job of absorbing the full technology acquired through collaboration by BPMEL to Braithwaite & Company when both the companies have been referred to BIFR and Braithwaite had no background and experience in water treatment & effluent treatment plants;

(b) the reasons for which the market value of landed property of BPMEL i.e. the freehold land at Dakhindhari and Beliaghata have not been assessed before taking a decision on winding up of BPMEL;

(c) whether the same have been assessed now; if so, the present value and if not, whether Government propose to liquidate the company without revaluation of the assets; and

(d) whether the BIFR and the operating agency were appraised of the above and if so, whether the revival cost was evaluated vis-a-vis the internal financing possibility through sale of land, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) In order to exploit the technology fully by associating the subsidiary Companies and to procure more orders, it was decided that all technical documents in this respect will be shared with Braithwaite & Co.

(b) to (d). BFIR and Operating agency were apprised of details of assets of the Company. BIFR has not passed any final order for winding up of BPMEL as Calcutta High Court has restrained BIFR